

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 4-6, 34-37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 57, 58, 60, and 61 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 1, 43, 52, and 59 are currently being amended.

Claims 68-83 are being added.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-3, 28-32, 38, 43, 46-56, 59, and 62-83 are now pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 52, 68, 73, and 78 are independent.

Pending Claims

Each of the currently pending claims has been indicated as allowable, depends from one of the claims indicated as allowable, and/or contains all of the elements of one of the claims that has been indicated as allowable.

A. Claim 1

Claim 41 depended from Claim 1 and was indicated as allowable. For convenience, Claim 1 was amended to recite all of the elements of Claim 41 (rather than rewriting Claim 41 in independent form). Thus, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

B. Claim 52

Claim 52 was withdrawn by the examiner as being directed to an independent and distinct invention. Claim 52 is directed to a vehicle and has been amended to recite a seat with each of the limitations of Claim 1 (as amended).

Since Claim 52 recites all of the elements of Claim 1 and is not distinct from Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that Claim 52 be reinstated in the application. Also, since Claim

52 recites all of the elements of Claim 1, Claim 52 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

It should be noted that some of the amendments to Claim 52 were made to address the Office Action's reasons for restricting Claim 52 out of the application, and were not made for reasons related to the patentability of Claim 52.

C. Claim 68

Claim 46, which was indicated as allowable, is rewritten as Claim 68. Thus, Claim 68 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

It should be noted that while the form of the claim was slightly modified to make the claim more clear, Claim 68 contains all of the limitations of Claim 46.

D. Claim 73

Claim 47, which was indicated as allowable, is rewritten as Claim 73. Thus, Claim 73 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

It should be noted that while the form of the claim was slightly modified to make the claim more clear, Claim 73 contains all of the limitations of Claim 47.

E. Claim 78

Claim 78 recites all of the limitations of Claim 68 (formerly Claim 46) and is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reason as Claim 68.

F. Remainder of the claims

The remainder of the pending claims depend from one of the above-mentioned independent claims and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the claim from which they depend.

Claims 53-56, 59, and 62-67 depend from Claim 52 and are requested to be reinstated in the application for the same reasons as Claim 52.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

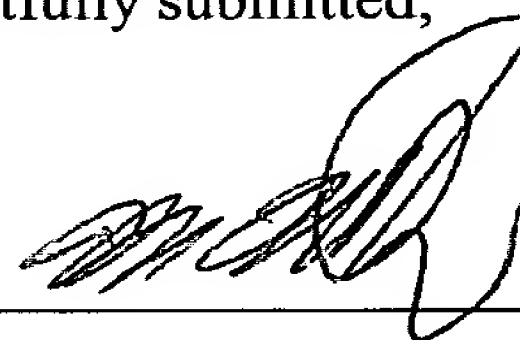
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 14, 2004

By



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